

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Huh for the courtesy he has extended attorneys in conducting personal interview with them on December 5, 2006. Applicants' attorneys, Aaron S. Haleva and Ray R. Berdie, participated. In the interview, Applicants proposed the Amendments which are herein presented. Examiner Huh agreed that the cited art does not teach a user inputting a preset amount of fluid, and therefore, subject to further search, the present amendments appear favorable. Examiner Huh also explained his comments in the Response to Arguments section of the Final Office Action, appearing on page 4 thereof.

REMARKS

The following remarks, in conjunction with the above presented amendments, are believed to be fully responsive to the issues raised in the Final Office Action mailed on September 12, 2006 (the "Final Office Action") in this application. Claims 23-27 were pending in the present application. Claims 23 and 27 have been amended, and new claims 28-30 presented. Support for the amendments to claims 23 and 27 can be found, for example, in ¶¶ 59 and 168 which describe a user entering safety parameters such as maximum amount of fluid to be injected and refill volume. No new matter has been added. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

35 U.S.C. Sections 102 and 103 Rejections

Claims 23-25 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,596,575 to Rosenberg, et al. ("Rosenberg") or U.S. Patent No. 3,888,239 to Rubenstein ("Rubinstein"). Claim 26 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rosenberg or Rubinstein in view of U.S. Patent no. 4,684,365, to Reinicke ("Reinicke").

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for at least the reasons stated below, and requests reconsideration and allowance of these claims.

Claim 23, as amended, recites a method for automatically refilling a syringe for an angiographic injector arrangement. The method comprises sensing a volume of fluid in a chamber of a syringe, receiving a preset amount of fluid necessary for a subsequent injection from user input, comparing the volume in the chamber with the preset amount of fluid, and retracting a plunger within the syringe chamber to a predetermined limit if the preset amount of fluid is greater than the volume of fluid sensed in said chamber. Claim 27, as amended, recites similar limitations.

Applicants do not believe that Rosenberg either teaches or suggests each of the elements of claims 23 or 27, as amended. Rosenberg discloses a memory 24 that continuously stores a value representing a quantity of insulin delivered by the pumping unit 3. Rosenberg at 2:67-3:22. “This stored quantity is used for, among other purposes, controlling the refilling operation in which unit 4 is automatically refilled from the refill unit 8 with the quantity of insulin previously delivered since the last refill operation, thereby minimizing the possibility of over-filling or under-filling unit 4” (emphasis added). *Id.* at 3:2-7. Applicants therefore contend that Rosenberg fails to teach or suggest receiving a preset amount of fluid necessary for a subsequent injection from user input and then comparing a volume in a chamber with that preset amount and retracting a plunger within said chamber to a predetermined limit if the preset amount of fluid necessary for the subsequent injection is greater than the volume of fluid sensed in said chamber. Rosenberg does not allow for user input as to the preset amount of fluid to use in the comparison test for a refill.

Similarly, Applicants do not believe that Rubinstein teaches or suggests each of these claim elements. As described in Rubinstein, “[m]eans are included for providing an indication of both total consumption of the fluids as well as the size of each dose that is injected” (emphasis added). Rubinstein at 3:2-4. As is described later in Rubenstein, “[r]efilling of the reservoirs 28 and 30 after the withdrawal of any fluid therefrom is automatically accomplished by having the pumps 32 and 34 respectively connected to be automatically operated whenever the reservoir is not full” (emphasis added). *Id.* at 6:5-9. Applicants therefore also contend that Rubinstein fails to teach or suggest receiving a preset amount of fluid necessary for a subsequent injection from user input and then comparing a volume in a chamber with that preset amount and retracting a plunger within said chamber to a predetermined limit if the preset amount of fluid necessary for the subsequent injection is greater than the volume of fluid sensed in said chamber. Rubinstein does not allow for user input as to the preset amount of fluid to use in the comparison test for a refill.

Finally, as regards claim 26, Applicants do not believe that Reinicke, either alone or in any combination, cures the deficiencies of Rosenberg and Rubinstein as a reference against claim 23 (or 27, for that matter). Thus, for at least the reasons presented above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claim 23 and 27.

Claims 24-26 each depend directly on claim 23. For at least the reasons adduced above, Applicant does not believe that Rosenberg, Rubinstein, or Reinicke teach or suggest (either alone or in any combination) each of the elements of these claims. Applicant therefore respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 24-26.

NEW CLAIMS

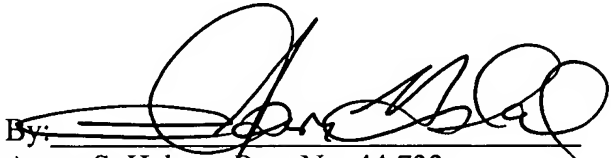
Applicants have added new claims 28-30, which do not introduce any new subject matter and are fully supported by the original disclosure. Inasmuch as these claims depend upon either claim 23 or claim 27, for at least the reasons described above in connection with those independent claims, Applicants believe that claims 28-30 are thus patentable over the art of record, and respectfully request consideration and allowance of these claims.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that all pending claims are in a state of allowance, and respectfully requests early passage to issue. No additional fee is believed to be necessary in connection with the filing of this response. However, if any additional fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fee(s) to Deposit Account No. 50-0540.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 7, 2006

By: 
Aaron S. Haleva, Reg. No. 44,733
Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP
1177 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036
(212) 715-7773 (phone)
(212) 715-8000 (fax)